

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are now pending in the application. Claims 17 and 18 have been rejected. Claim 16 has been amended. Claims 1-16 and 19-24 have been allowed. Claims 17 and 18 have been cancelled herein. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the present amendments and the following remarks. The above amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action to render all claims at issue patentably distinct over the references cited.

ELECTION/RESTRICTIONS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the withdrawal of the restriction requirement and the Examiner's rejoining of Claims 7-10 and 12-24 to this application.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 1-16 and 19-24.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the Grethe, Guenter et al., Helvetica Chimica Act article. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The originally filed claim is patentably distinct over the cited reference. Inasmuch as Claim 18 has been cancelled herein, without prejudice, this rejection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Davies et al. (WO 00/43383). This rejection is respectfully traversed. The originally filed claim is patentably distinct over the cited reference. The Examiner's assumptions are respectfully challenged as lacking support and the Examiner appears to be improperly using hindsight reasoning given the benefit of the claimed invention. Inasmuch as Claim 17 has been cancelled herein, without prejudice, this rejection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant's Representative therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600 if the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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